

SN. 10/714,815

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. FUJI:285

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, and 4-24 are now pending in this application for which applicants seek reconsideration.

Amendment

Claim 3 has been canceled and claims 1 and 7 have been amended. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 3 and to further define that the alignment marks of the first or second master disk are rotationally alignable with the magnetic recording medium. Claim 7 has been placed in independent form. New claim 24 has been added. No new matter has been introduced.

Allowed & Allowable Claims

Claims 10-23 have been allowed, and claims 7-9 have been indicated to be allowable if they are placed in independent form. As claim 7 has been placed in independent form, claims 7-23 are in condition for allowance.

Art Rejection

Claims 1, 2, 5, and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Hamada (JP 2000-067433) in view of Hamano (USPGP 2002/0081018). Claim 3 was rejected under § 103(a) as unpatentable over Hamada in view of Hamano and Matsuda (USP 6,721,113). Finally, claim 4 was rejected under § 103(a) as unpatentable over Hamada in view of Hamano and Ikeda (JP 2002-197647). Applicants traverse these rejections at least because the applied references would not have disclosed or taught the alignment feature set forth in claim 1.

Claim 1 now recites that the alignment marks of the first master disk and the alignment marks of the second master disk have complementary configurations, and that the alignment marks of the first or second master disk are rotationally alignable with the magnetic recording medium.

In rejecting claim 3, which is now incorporated in claim 1, the examiner relied upon Matsuda's center hole for the proposition that providing complementary position marks would have been obvious. Even if the combination urged by the examiner were deemed proper for argument's sake, Matsuda's alignment marks would not have taught rotationally aligning the magnetic recording medium and the master disc. Specifically, because Matsuda's alignment marks are formed at the center of the disc, it cannot rotationally align the magnetic recording

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medium relative to the master disc (or vice versa). New dependent claim 24 further recites that the alignment marks are positioned off center.

Moreover, applicants submit that the combination urged by the examiner would not have been tenable because Matsuda alignment marks require a hole. Indeed, Matsuda aligns the magnetic recording medium with the master disc using an optical sensor 2 through a central opening in the magnetic recording medium. Placing alignment marks as urged by the examiner would require many openings through the magnetic recording medium, as well as corresponding number of optical sensors. In short, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to form markings as taught by Matsuda.

None of the other applied references would have alleviated the shortcomings of the Hamada and Hamano combination.

Conclusion

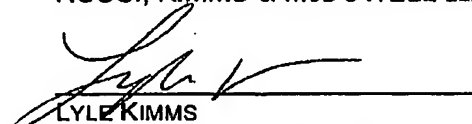
Applicants submit that claims 1, 2, and 4-24 patentably distinguish over the applied references and are in condition for allowance. Should the examiner have any issues concerning this reply or any other outstanding issues remaining in this application, applicants urge the examiner to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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15 NOVEMBER 2005

DATE



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REG. NO. 34,079 (RULE 34, WHERE APPLICABLE)

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